

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6393

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1809

FOR REGIONAL LABOR ADVISOR SEARING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, BG

SUBJECT: AAFLI IN BANGLADESH

REF: DACCA 1787

1. RICHARD OULAHAN WILL BE LEAVING BANGLADESH TOMORROW FOR NEW DELHI. HE HAS FOUND OUT THROUGH JSL PRESIDENT RAHMAN THAT BDG REQUEST THAT HE DEPART WAS INSTIGATED BY COMPLAINT OF SHEIKH FAZLUL HUQ MONI (PER REFTEL, PARA 3). RAHMAN SAYS THAT MONI FEARS THAT AAFLI SEMINARS AND PROGRAMS ARE HELPING BUILD UP POPULAR UNION OF HIS RIVALS IN THE RAHMAN/MANNAN WING OF JSL. LOCAL UNION ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN PROMISED IN SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS AFTER FORMATION OF THE SINGLE LABOR FRONT WHICH MONI WILL HEAD. MONI THEREFORE IS FEARFUL THAT RAHMAN/MANNAN PEOPLE COULD WIN ENOUGH ELECTIONS TO CHALLENGE HIS LEADERSHIP. RAHMAN, IN CONSULTATION WITH ABDUR MANNAN (IN DETENTION IN HOSPITAL), HAS DECIDED THAT IT IS NOT TIMELY TO GO TO SHEIKH MUJIB ON AAFLI ISSUE; RAHMAN AND MANNAN DO NOT THINK THEY WOULD WIN THE ARGUMENT AND DO NOT WISH TO RISK THEIR POLITICAL CAPITAL ON NEGATIVE ANSWER FROM MUJIB. AAFLI IS JUST ONE OF PROBLEMS THAT WILL COME UP IN FORMATION OF SINGLE LABOR FRONT; RAHMAN EXPECTS THAT RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATS AND ICFTU-
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WFTU WILL ALSO BE UNDER DISCUSSION SOON.

2. OULAHAN IS LEAVING AAFLI OFFICE OPEN UNDER STEWARDSHIP OF BENGALI ASSISTANT, ANISUDDIN KHAN, PENDING DECISION OF AAFLI WASHINGTON ON FUTURE OF PROGRAM HERE. ACCORDING TO RAHMAN, VISITS BY EMILIO GARZA AND OTHER AAFLI MEN WOULD BE WELCOME.

3. EMBASSY FOLLOWED UP ON ITS OWN INQUIRY MENTIONED IN REFTEL. IT SEEMS HOME MINISTRY IS NO LONGER IN CHARGE OF CASES INVOLVING FOREIGNERS. HOME SECRETARY REFERRED US TO PRIVATE SECRETARY OF PRESIDENT WHO IN TURN REFERRED US TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF NSI, THUS CLOSING CIRCLE. IN CONVERSATION WITH NSI DIRECTOR-GENERAL, EMBOFF WAS GIVEN ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY TOLD TO OULAHAN, WITH ADDED ALLEGATION THAT OULAHAN HAD CRITICIZED STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT IN BANGLADESH. WE CONSIDER REAL REASON FOR REQUEST TO LEAVE IS MACHINATIONS OF SHEIKH MONI, DESCRIBED IN PARA 1.

4. REQUEST THAT YOU TELL MORRIS PALADINO THAT OULAHAN WILL TELEPHONE HIM FROM NEW DELHI AFTER ARRIVAL AND CONSULTATION WITH GARZA.

BOSTER

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